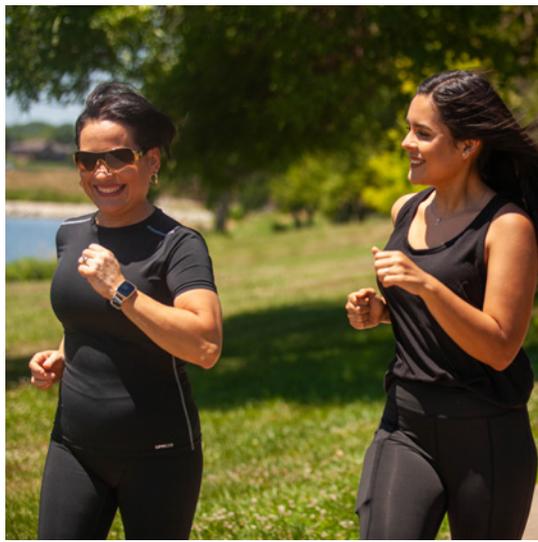




# 2021 Annual Report



# 2021 Annual Report

## About Norfolk

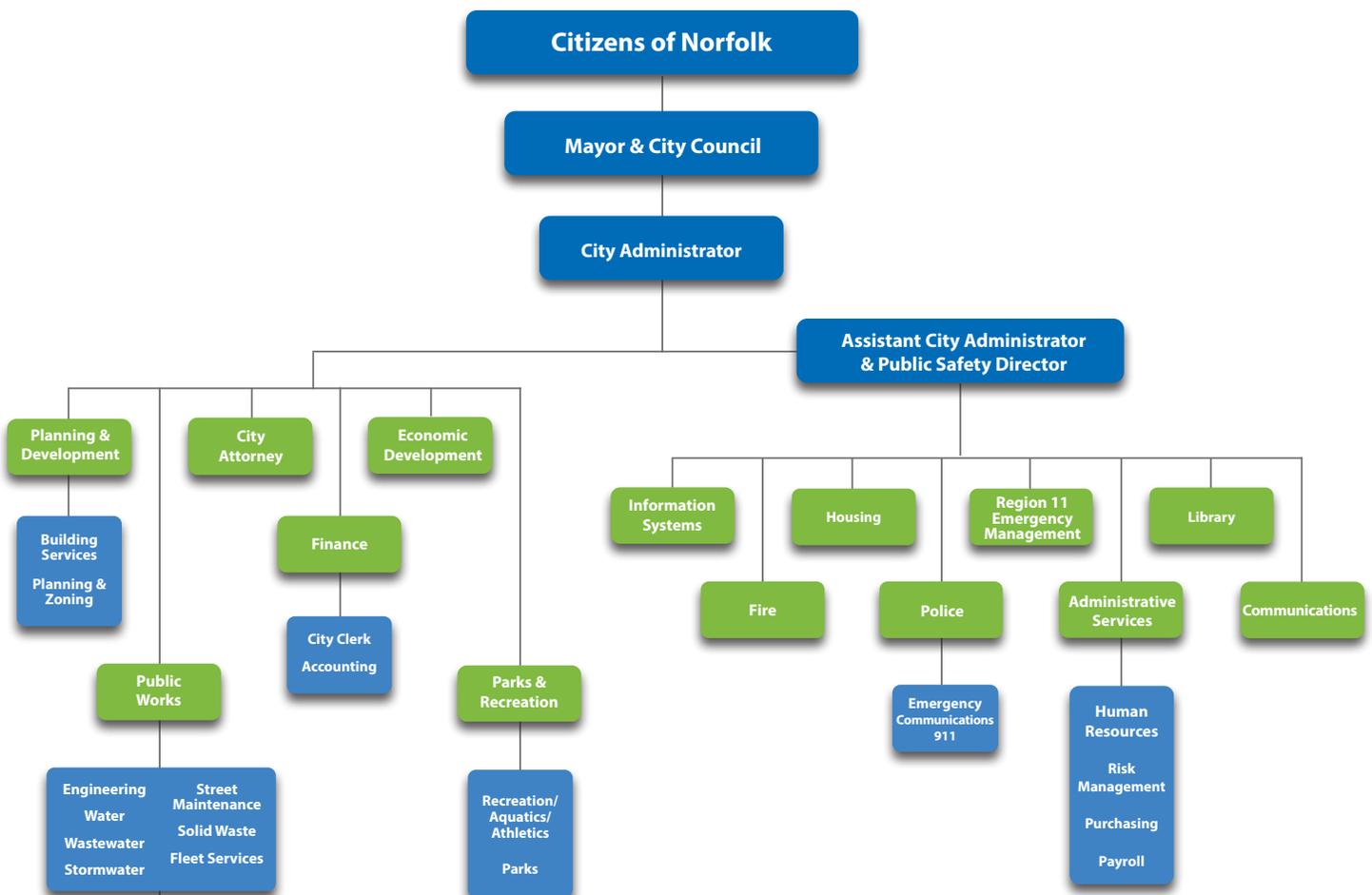
The Mission of the City of Norfolk is to “provide quality public services in an effective and efficient manner to enhance the common good and quality of life including citizen involvement.”

In 1881, the Village of Norfolk was organized. The settlers proclaimed “North Fork” to be their permanent post office address, named after the river, but suggested “Norfolk” as the simplest compounding of “North Fork.” Postal authorities, thinking the word had been misspelled, changed the spelling to “Norfolk.”

This is why you may hear some Norfolks pronounce it Nor-fork. Whichever way you decide to say it, know that we are glad to have you here.

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Josh Moenning  
Mayor

[jmoenning@norfolkne.gov](mailto:jmoenning@norfolkne.gov)

Dear Norfolkans:

As a citizen of this community, you are a shareholder in its wellbeing. As such, each year we provide an Annual Report that outlines how your investments in this city, your tax dollars, are spent throughout the year before.

2021, following an unsettling and unpredictable 2020, was a year of getting back into rhythm and getting back on track. Numerous signs point to us doing just that, and more, over the last year.

Small businesses, which bore the brunt of 2020 restrictions, bounced back with force, and new startups seized opportunities in an evolving marketplace. New housing options came to life, meeting demand for affordable homes in dense, traditional neighborhood settings. As a community, we focused resources on new infrastructure development to accommodate growth, devoting record levels of investment to street repairs and reconstruction and utilities expansion.

Population growth is reflected in increased sales tax receipts, housing permits, and new demand for services. In fact, Norfolk's population is growing more rapidly than it has for decades. Recognizing this, we continue making investments in quality of life that will help us retain youth and attract newcomers. Big projects lie ahead in 2022: North Fork Riverfront redevelopment, Benjamin Avenue reconstruction, a full-service public transit system, parks and trails improvements, and further downtown revitalization.

As an engaged citizen, you're on the journey with us to make Norfolk better for all. Our work ultimately aims to make Norfolk feel like home to anyone seeking a safe, vibrant, attractive, and unique place to live.

Take a few minutes to review this report. Explore progress, review plans for the future, and involve yourself in the civic process. In the meantime, we keep moving forward.

Sincerely,



Josh Moenning, Mayor





**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

The City of Norfolk has a Mayor/Council form of government. The Mayor and eight council members are elected on a non-partisan ballot. The Norfolk City Council meets at 5:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month in the City Council Chambers at 309 N. 5th Street, Norfolk, Nebraska.

The council holds a public comment session the last meeting of each quarter for all community members.

In 2021, new ward maps were approved by the city council highlighting the City's population growth. Every ten years following the release of the census of population, it is the responsibility of every governing body whose members are elected by wards or districts to balance the population across those wards or districts.

**POPULATION GROWTH**

Norfolk's estimated population is now 26,059, which is up from 24,210 people in 2020. This population gain is due to both growth and annexation, with growth accounting for more than half the total increase. The 1,849 increase means Norfolk grew more in population in the last year than it had the previous 20 years combined.

Lines moved between 7th Street and 9th Street from Madison Avenue to Prospect Avenue and the area east of 1st Street & Braasch, between Klug Avenue and Norfolk Avenue which was needed to balance population numbers. This effort was done in tandem with Madison County through a contract with gWorks to assist in this process.

**Ward 2**



**Frank Arens**  
farens@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2024



**Shane Clausen**  
sclausen@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2022

**Mayor**



**Josh Moenning**  
jmoenning@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2024

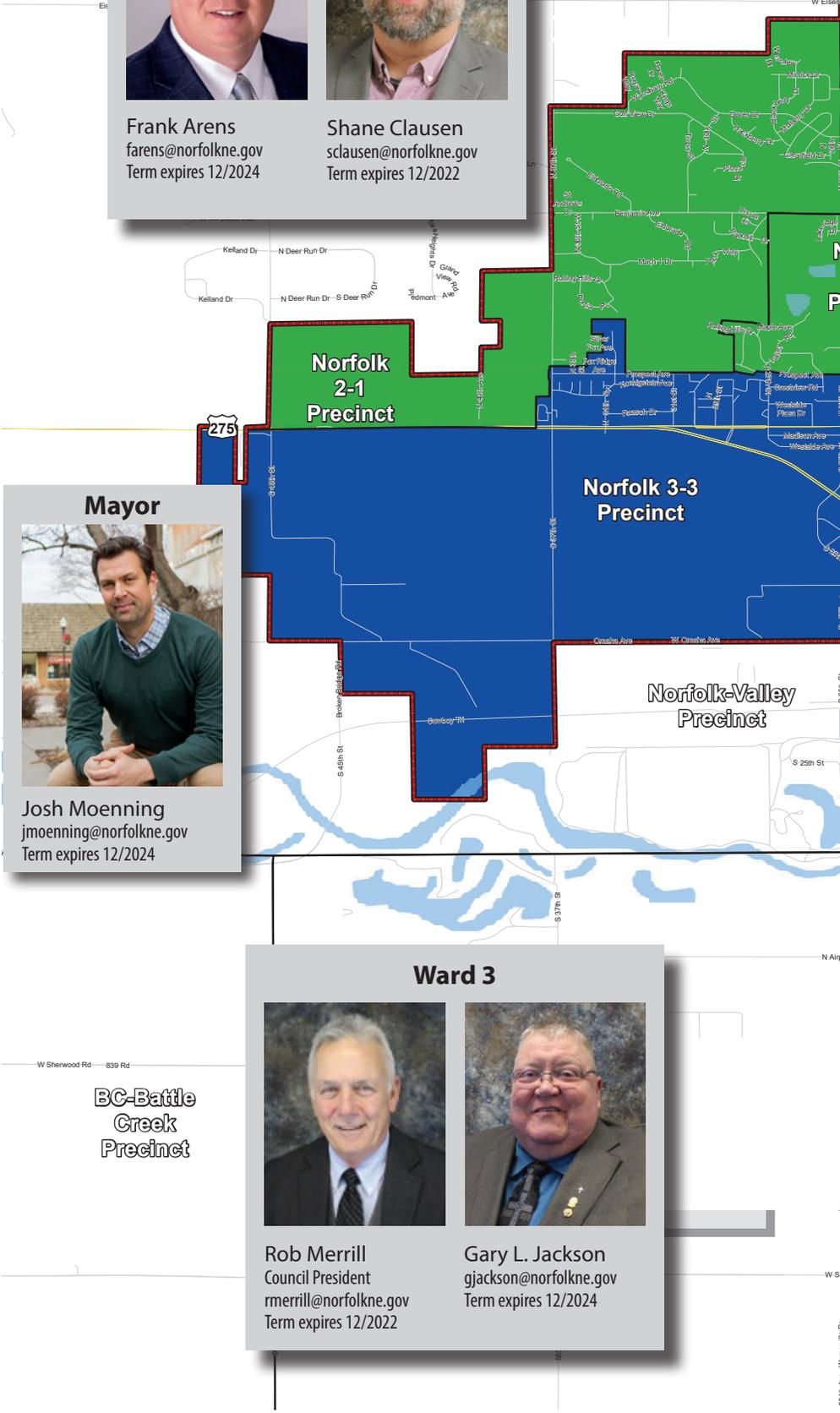
**Ward 3**



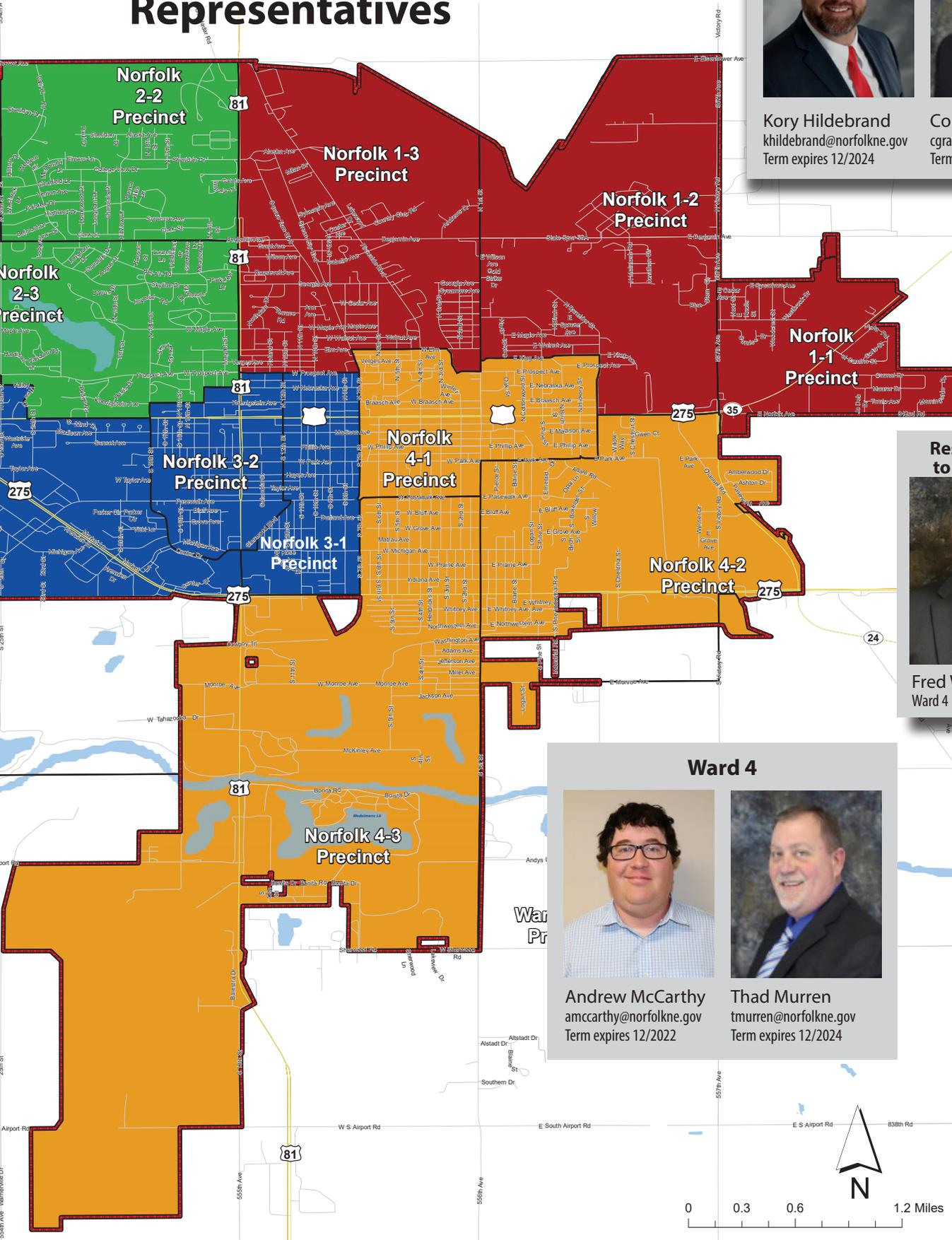
**Rob Merrill**  
Council President  
rmerrill@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2022



**Gary L. Jackson**  
gjackson@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2024



# 2021 Norfolk City Council Representatives



## Ward 1



**Kory Hildebrand**  
khildebrand@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2024



**Corey Granquist**  
cgranquist@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2022

## Resigned due to relocation



**Fred Wiebelhaus**  
Ward 4

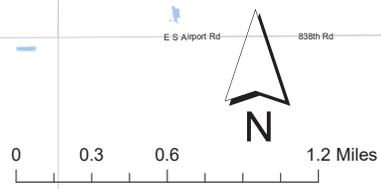
## Ward 4



**Andrew McCarthy**  
amccarthy@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2022



**Thad Murren**  
tmurren@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2024



City officials, stakeholders, and staff hosted an open house in August to gather citizen input for Benjamin Avenue Reconstruction



# Public Works

## BENJAMIN AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION

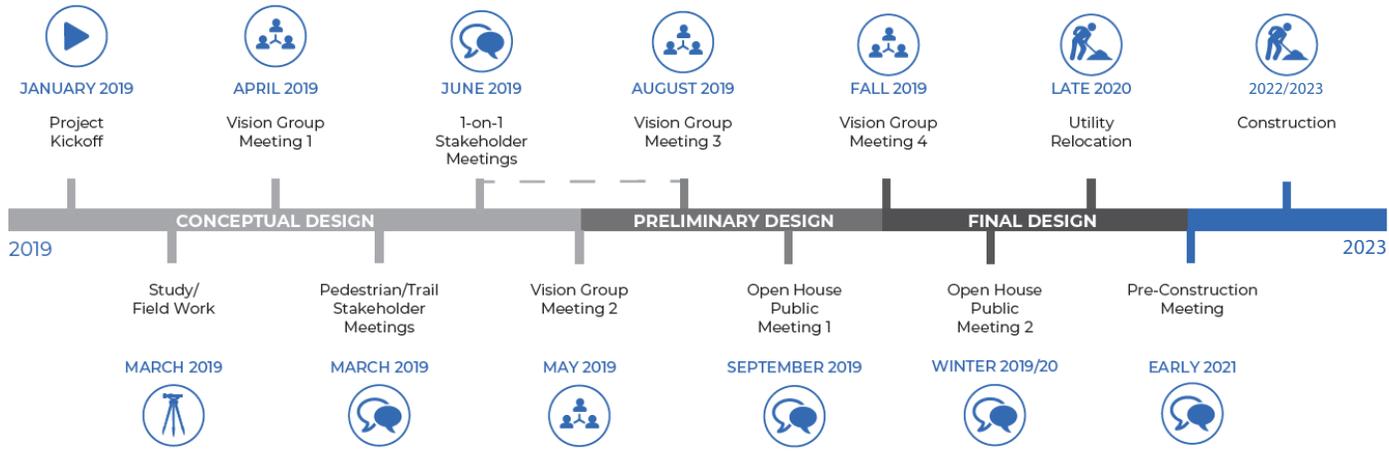
The Benjamin Avenue Reconstruction Project is coming together with the bulk of construction to begin the spring of 2022. Benjamin Avenue from 1st to 13th Street is an urban arterial roadway that connects the City of Norfolk from east to west and provides access to many businesses. Over time, the pavement along this corridor has deteriorated to such an extent that a full pavement replacement is necessary. Furthermore, traffic studies show that this particular stretch of roadway possesses a

crash rate of more than double the state average for similar roadways. This hazardous condition can be attributed to the lack of turn lanes available as well as the abundance of access points. This past year a number of open houses were held to inform the public of the construction process, right-of-way acquisitions, including Nebraska Public Power relocations, and the undergrounding of the distribution system. The City of Norfolk engaged a design team, led by Doug Holle of Schemmer Associates, to study the area and provide a design solution for the roadway.

## CITY STREET CREW PROJECTS

The City of Norfolk Street Division was hard at work this past year with numerous projects. The Street Division conducted concrete repair work on areas that included:

- 400 to the 500 Block of East Maple Avenue
- 500 to the 600 Block of East Spruce Avenue
- Walnut Circle to 700 Boxelder Street and the west part of Maple Avenue
- Panel replacement at 25th Street and the Benjamin Avenue Roundabout
- Total replacement of the east half of the 37th Street and Benjamin Avenue Intersection



\*All dates beyond September 2019 are tentative

- Reconstruction and panel replacement of the 1400 to 1500 Block of Homewood Drive
- Reconstruction and panel replacement of Clark Street to Highland Drive

Streets throughout Norfolk saw extensions and the addition of new streets due to new development. These include:

- 1000 Sunrise Drive through 719 Legacy Drive
- 26th Street north of Sheridan Drive
- Blackberry Drive northeast of Westview Drive
- East Grove Avenue
- Maple Avenue
- North 30th Street
- Rief Circle
- Rief Street
- Sheridan Avenue
- Westview Drive south of Sheridan Drive
- Cambridge Way

## **DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS**

The City of Norfolk completed a number of downtown improvements this past year. After the completion of the reconstruction and beautification of Braasch Avenue from First Street to Fifth Street, pavement restriping took place as well as mid-block

crossings were painted downtown. More parking spots were added downtown, including Madison Avenue where new diagonal parking was incorporated.

## **CONCRETE REPAIRS**

The City of Norfolk contracted this year with Elkhorn Valley Paving for concrete repairs. These repairs took place during the fall months.

The areas repaired included:

- Woodcrest from East Maple Avenue to East Sycamore Avenue
- Monroe Avenue from 15th Street to 16th Street
- Taylor Avenue from Market Lane to 25th Street
- Hillview Drive from College View Drive to Sheridan Drive
- Monroe Ave from 1st Street to the Water Pollution Control plant entrance
- 18th Street from Bel Air Road to Imperial Road will see work done in summer of 2022

## **NORFOLK SANITARY FACILITY PLANNING**

The City is in the planning phase for improvements set for the Norfolk Sanitary Facility. Once complete, the daily operational capacity will double at the plant.

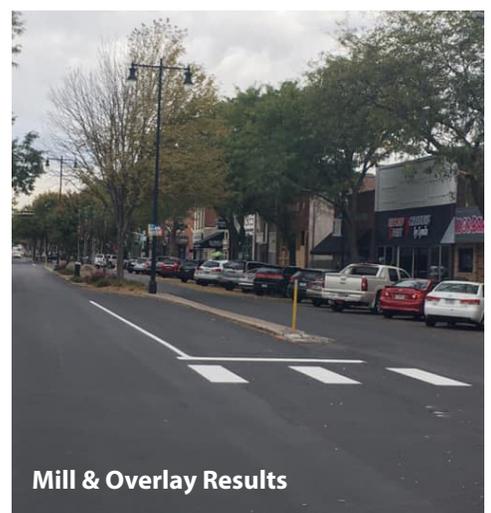
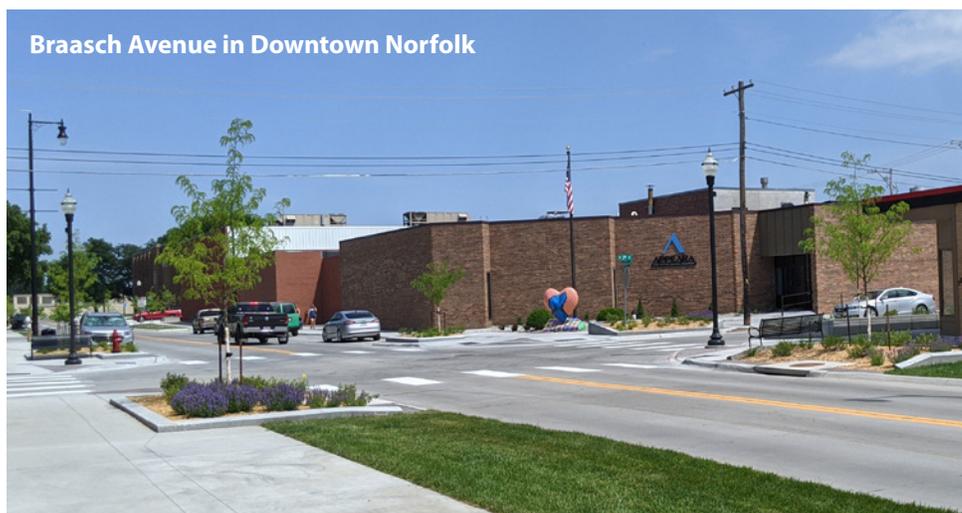
Part of the plans call for adding pumping capacity and replacing equipment that has been aged out. Bidding for the project should take place in early summer 2022.

## **MILL AND OVERLAY**

Mill and overlay work was completed on a number of City streets this past year. This project included milling off one to two inches of the existing roadway and the installation of new asphalt. The new layer of asphalt is a maintenance measure used to help extend the life of the existing roadway.

Work was completed on:

- Norfolk Avenue from Cottonwood Street to east of flood control
- North 1st Street from Benjamin Avenue to flood control
- Norfolk Avenue east of 27th Street
- 37th Street from US Hwy 275 to City limits
- US Hwy 81 both ways from US Hwy 275
- US Hwy 81 & Pasewalk Avenue
- Michigan Avenue from 13th Street to Glenn Street
- Norfolk Avenue from 7th Street to 1st Street
- 7th Street from Madison Avenue to Prospect Avenue



# Public Works



Norfolk's new solar farm under construction

## SOLAR PROJECT UNDERWAY

Construction work is progressing on Norfolk's first solar farm, an 8.5 megawatt solar unit, located on land at the city's well field on West Highway 275. Last year, it was announced Norfolk will be part of Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD) SunWise Community Solar program.

Community solar is a way for community members to purchase solar energy without having to install rooftop panels on their home or business. Solar subscribers can buy different amounts of solar energy based on their annual electricity usage.

There will be an added aspect of the project for NPPD with the installation of a 1MW battery energy storage system (BESS) that will be charged through generation provided by the solar unit and can be discharged daily to accomplish several goals such as demand management, frequency regulation, voltage support, and smoothing and shifting variable renewable energy generation.

## WATER TOWER COMPLETE

Work wrapped up this year on a new 750,000-gallon water tower in the northeast corner of Norfolk. The new structure serves the entire northeast industrial tract, including Norfolk Iron & Metal and the Nucor Norfolk manufacturing facility. Gerard Tank & Steel began site clearing in March 2020 and construction began in early April of 2020.



Funding for the \$1.8 million project came from a combination of assessments to property owners in the northeast industrial area, as well as money collected through water rate fares in Norfolk.



Give an additional \$2 on your monthly water bill and help beautify Norfolk. Visit [norfolkne.gov](http://norfolkne.gov) to learn more.

## NEW STREETS MANAGER

The City of Norfolk welcomed Willard Elwell to staff as Streets Manager. Elwell came to Norfolk from Jordan, Minnesota, where he served as Operations Supervisor in Scott County since 2012. Elwell has 37 years of experience in resource management, equipment upkeep, and task management across a broad range of industries.



Willard Elwell

## STREETS MANAGER RETIRES AFTER 44 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mark Miller retired in 2021 after 44 years with the City of Norfolk. Miller oversaw the Street Division after spending time with Engineering early in his career. Miller says he loved his time with the City and he's going to miss the great group of individuals within the Street Division.



Mark Miller

Mayor Josh Moenning speaking at the North Fork Transit press conference unveiling new services



# Community Growth

## **NORTH FORK AREA TRANSIT**

Public transit is being enhanced in Norfolk. North Fork Area Transit is the new name for public transportation in and around Norfolk, previously known as Norfolk Public Transportation. North Fork Area Transit offers three types of services; *ForkLift* is regularly scheduled bus service within Norfolk that offers three flexroutes. *TeleLift* is 24-hour advance reservation, curb-to-curb service, similar to the original operation of the transportation service. *ExpressLift* is the on-demand service, similar to Uber®. You can book your trip on a mobile device or call the office for a same-day ride. All services should be up and running in 2022.

Funding for North Fork Area Transit's expansion was provided by state and federal grants as well as matched by the City of Norfolk. The city council approved North Fork Area Transit's request for financial assistance in the amount of \$309,533 in order to help

kickstart the new services. Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning said that public ridership in the area has increased about 255% over the last two years.

## **ELECTRIC VEHICLE & NEW CHARGERS**

Norfolk residents may notice some new tools around the community. The City of Norfolk has invested in electric vehicle (EV) charging ports as well as its own electric vehicle. Two level 2 chargers have been installed for public use.

One is located at the City Administration parking lot and the other is at the Norfolk Public Library. The City partnered with the Nebraska Public Power District to provide a DC Fast Charger for the community. The charger, located on the corner of Norfolk Avenue and 1st Street, is easy to use and is an option for charging an EV in a short amount of time for those traveling long distances. Just 30 minutes of charging with the DC fast charger provides most cars with 70-75 miles of range.



Mayor Moenning with NPPD representatives at a ribbon cutting for Norfolk's new electric vehicle charger

## **OCCUPATION TAX PAID OFF EARLY**

November 30 was the last day businesses in Norfolk collected the City's lodging, food and beverage occupation taxes. The City's food and beverage and lodging occupation taxes were levied to pay debt service on the voter-approved \$16.4 million bond issue funding the water park and other improvements at Veteran's Memorial and Ta-Ha-Zouka Parks. The City Council enacted lodging and food and beverage occupation taxes effective February 2011 to fund debt service on the bonds. The original bonds had a 20-year maturity. In 2016, the City refunded the bonds and used \$2 million of accumulated occupation tax to payoff a portion of the bonds, realize an interest savings, and shorten the final maturity to December 2023. Final payment on the bonds will be made in January 2022. This is almost two years prior to the final scheduled payment and almost nine years early from the original maturity of December 2030.



AquaVenture Waterpark was built as a component of a \$16.4 million voter-approved bond

## **ANNEXATION COMPLETE**

As the City of Norfolk continues to expand and improve city services and amenities, it is necessary to identify and prioritize annexation of areas to adjust city boundaries for purposes of facilitating orderly growth.

The process of studying areas for possible annexation is guided by the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is the city's guide for decisions regarding both future development and growth via annexation.

In 2017, the city council commissioned Olsson Associates

to conduct an annexation analysis of the entire community. The study ultimately recommended annexing 25 different areas in every direction — north, south, east and west — around Norfolk. The proposed plan was finalized in late 2019 and the council was prepared to bring it forward for consideration in early 2020, until the COVID-19 pandemic limited public gatherings.

After multiple public hearings and discussions before the Planning Commission and City Council, in October the Council gave final approval to the annexation of various areas adjacent to Norfolk.



Public hearing for community annexation



# Public Safety

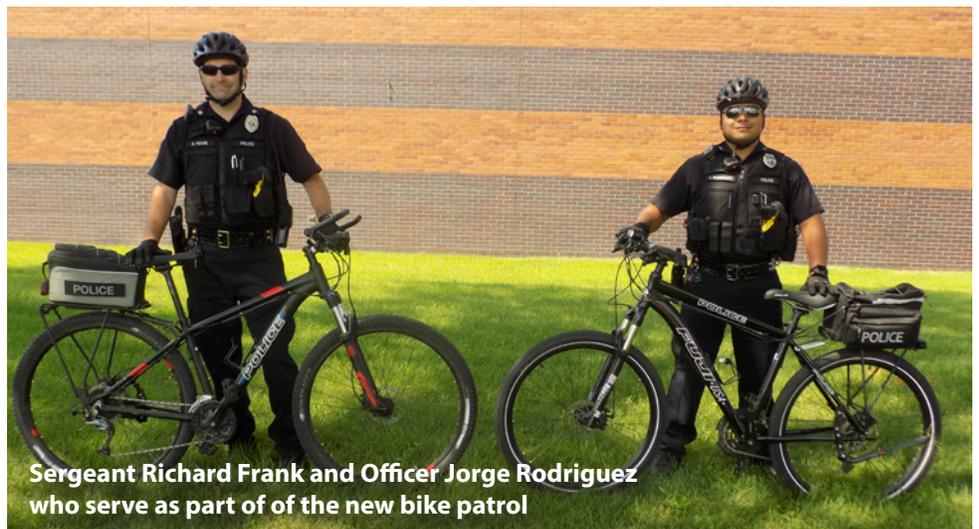
## NORFOLK AND MADISON COUNTY MERGE DISPATCH CENTERS

After a year of planning and collaboration, the City of Norfolk and Madison County have merged dispatch services. Norfolk Police Chief Don Miller says it's not cheap to run a dispatch center, and this will ultimately save money in the long run. Residents didn't notice much of a change when calling 911. With the merge, the Norfolk Police Division dispatch center now serves the police and fire/rescue services of Battle Creek, Madison, Meadow Grove, Newman Grove, Norfolk, and Tilden. It also serves the Stanton and Madison County Sheriff's office and the Hoskins Fire & Rescue, as well as weather alert services for the areas. As part of the process, the Police Division's dispatch center will be expanded from its current three stations to six, with an addition to the IT room. Miller says Norfolk has grown tremendously over the past 20 years, and the changes are going to help assist the future growth over the next 20 years.

## NORFOLK POLICE IMPLEMENT BIKE PATROL UNIT

The Norfolk Police Division has added a new tool to better serve the community. Over the summer, three bicycle instructors from Bellevue spent nearly a week in Norfolk training police officers in the proper use of police bicycles. Bicycles provide access to areas not accessible by vehicle. These include trails, parks, fields and special events. All officers are fully certified and

trained prior to utilizing the bicycles. The bicycle officers continue to operate a regular police cruiser and answer all calls for service. They have a bike on the back of the cruiser to use when needed. Bikes provides better access to tight spaces, better personal contact with citizens, stealth approaches when necessary, and a great tool for special events where there is a large number of pedestrians, such as parades or events at parks where getting a regular vehicle into the area is difficult or impossible.



Sergeant Richard Frank and Officer Jorge Rodriguez who serve as part of the new bike patrol

# Public Safety



From left: Fire Chief Tim Wragge, Assistant City Administrator/Public Safety Director Scott Cordes, Nebraska State Chair of ESGR Mike Navrkal, Firefighter/Paramedic Bryce Hinrichs, and Bridgadier General Gary Ropers

## NORFOLK FIRE RECEIVES PRO PATRIA AWARD

The Norfolk Fire Division was the recipient of the Pro Patria Award. The Pro Patria award is presented annually by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) committee to one public sector employer in the state. Recipients are selected based on their support to National Guard and Army Reserve employees through their leadership and practices, including adopting personnel policies that make it easier for

employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserve. Norfolk Fire was one of 15 award winners across the nation out of 3,400 nominations. The Pro Patria is the highest level award that may be given by an ESGR state committee. The Fire Division was nominated for the award by Bryce Hinrichs, a full-time firefighter at the department and a sergeant with the Army National Guard. He joined the military straight out of high school in 2009 and has served on the Norfolk Fire Division since 2016.

## LIEUTENANT BOB NELSON & OFFICER PASCAL VANTILBORGH RECEIVE OPTIMIST AWARD



Bob Nelson with Mark Claussen, President of the Norfolk Noon Optimist Club



Officer Pascal Vantilborgh shown with Sergeant Scott Rutten

The Norfolk Morning and Noon Optimist clubs recognized Norfolk's Public Safety Divisions. Lieutenant Bob Nelson of the Norfolk Fire Division and Officer Pascal Vantilborgh were recognized. Optimist International highlights those who inspire respect for the law.



## O'BRIEN PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT CHIEF

The City of Norfolk named Trever O'Brien the next Assistant Norfolk Fire Chief. O'Brien succeeds Tim Wragge, who was promoted to Fire Chief in August.

Starting out as a firefighter and paramedic, O'Brien also served as a Fire Inspector and Lieutenant. He was sworn in December 7.



## WEIDNER EXITS CITY AFTER 31 YEARS

Longtime City of Norfolk employee

Shane Weidner announced his resignation in May. Shane began his career with the City on April 2, 1990, as a Firefighter. He was promoted to the position of Rescue Supervisor in November of 1991 and Shift Commander in May 1994. On July 1, 1996, he was promoted to the position of Fire Chief and remained in that position until accepting the position of City Administrator on August 15, 2011. He served in that capacity until he assumed the responsibilities of Public Safety Director in July 2017.

## NORFOLK POLICE FACILITY EXPANSION ON THE HORIZON

Long-awaited changes are coming to the Norfolk Police Division's facility after some initial upgrades were completed this year. The Police Division has outgrown its current building, which has not been updated or added to since it was first occupied in 1987. Due to added staff and future plans, the parking lot was recently expanded. Police Chief Don Miller has highlighted a two-phase plan for the property's redevelopment. Phase 1 includes the completed parking lot expansion, as well as the reconfiguration of part of the building's first story to accommodate the expanded dispatch center. Phase 2, which would likely be voted on in May (or November) 2022, would include a two story addition on the east side of the building as well as the renovation of existing space. Miller added, "The need for more space exists due to the addition of services and staff over the last 35 years and because the building houses four entities: the police station, a dispatch center, a city jail and the



city attorney's office. Most police departments don't house each of these entities under one roof."

## NEW CANINE AT NORFOLK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Norfolk Police acquired a new K-9 service dog. The Police Division has been without a K-9 after Rico, a Belgian Malinois, retired in 2019. The new K-9, Kane, came from the Netherlands and attended 14 weeks of training at the Law Enforcement and Training Center in Grand Island with Officer Derek Fryer. Kane returned from training in December.



Derek Fryer & Kane

"Anyone encountering Kane and Officer Fryer need to remember he is a working police dog and not a pet. Kane should not be approached without the supervision and approval of the handler," shared Police Chief Don Miller.

## WRAGGE NAMED FIRE CHIEF

Tim Wragge was named the Norfolk Fire Chief this past summer. Wragge was chosen from four candidates to become Norfolk's 23rd Fire Chief in its 137th year. Wragge has worked for the Norfolk Fire Division for nearly 19 years. Starting out as a firefighter and paramedic, he also served as a Fire Inspector and Lieutenant before being promoted to Assistant Fire Chief in 2015. Tim replaced Scott Cordes.

## Are you signed up to receive emergency text alerts?

Text "NorfolkAlerts" to 74121 to be added to our list.

## 2021 Police & Fire Division Staff Changes & Promotions

### POLICE DIVISION



Brandon Adams



Dylan Vieth



Brent Lowe

### DISPATCH



Alayna Ping



Nicole Kumm

### FIRE DIVISION



Brock Soderberg  
Lieutenant



Chris Kneifl

Councilman Andrew McCarthy being sworn in after his appointment



# Administration

## MCCARTHY APPOINTED

A new face joined the Norfolk City Council this year. Andrew McCarthy was appointed by Mayor Josh Moenning in August to fill the Ward 4 vacancy after Fred Wiebelhaus relocated to Lincoln for his job. McCarthy is the owner of District Table and Tap in downtown Norfolk and said he has a number of goals while serving on the council, such as assisting with the growth of the community in economic development. He also wants to see an increase in community engagement with planning and zoning.

McCarthy was involved with the Norfolk Riverfront Overlay Review Board, the Elkhorn Valley Museum Board of Directors, the Downtown Norfolk Association, and the Lions Club.



Fred Wiebelhaus  
Former Ward 4  
representative

Learn about community projects currently in progress at [norfolkne.gov](http://norfolkne.gov).

## STATE COLLEGE ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Jim McKenzie and Scott Cordes were both recognized with similar awards by the Nebraska Community College Association in October. McKenzie, information systems manager, and Cordes, assistant city administrator/public safety director, were selected to receive 2021 Distinguished Alumni awards from Northeast Community College and Southeast Community College, respectively.



Left to right: Scott Cordes and Jim McKenzie shown with their 2021 Distinguished Alumni awards



Mayor Moenning greeting the Honorable Ambassador Edward Sawerengera on his visit to Norfolk in July. Sawerengera is the retired Ambassador of Malawi to the U.S.

## MAYOR RECOGNIZED FOR LEADERSHIP

Mayor Josh Moenning was also recognized in 2021. The U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) honored Moenning for his work to advocate for U.S. global leadership as an imperative and effective approach to strengthening our country's local communities.

Norfolk's global relations include a partnership with Blantyre, Malawi, which is Norfolk's International Sister City. Several Malawian young people have moved to Norfolk to study at Northeast Community College, including members of Ambassador Edward Sawerengera's family.



Left to right: City Administration retirees Sheila Schukei, Mary Rodgers, and Deb Johnson

### CITY ADMINISTRATION RETIRES 106 YEARS OF SERVICE

This year saw some changes to the City Administration building. Human Resources Director Sheila Schukei, Administrative Secretary Deb Johnson, and Mary Rodgers with Accounts Payable all retired after contributing a total of 106 years of service to the City of Norfolk. Much has happened during their tenure. They all agree the technology evolution has been the biggest change. In the beginning of their careers the only technology in the office was a landline, an electric typewriter, and a calculator. "The one thing that has not changed is the caliber of employees. Our employees are our greatest asset. They care about what they do—it is not just a job to them," said Schukei.

With the changes came new faces to the administration building. Kristy Booras joined staff in Accounts Payable, Kylee Soderberg is Norfolk's newest Administrative Assistant, and Nick Stevenson took on the role of Communications Manager. The overall structure of the City's administrative office changed



Lyle Lutt

with Lyle Lutt promoted to the Director of Administrative Services. Lutt started with the City in 1999 as a Firefighter/Paramedic. He moved up to Lieutenant and ultimately Captain in 2012. Lutt transitioned over to Administration as Risk/Operations Manager in 2015. He will work on HR in tandem with Nancy Wright who transitioned to Talent and Recruitment Coordinator from the Library and Pat VonGlan who assumed the Payroll Benefits Administer role.

### ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR

Scott Cordes was selected to serve as the Assistant City Administrator/Public Safety Director after Shane Weidner stepped down.



Scott Cordes

A native of Scribner and City of Norfolk employee since 1996, Cordes previously served as Norfolk's Fire Chief. Cordes started his career in fire prevention with the Nebraska State Fire Marshal's office. He advanced to Assistant State Fire Marshal before taking the reigns as the City of Norfolk's Fire Marshal. Soon after, he was promoted to Assistant Chief and ultimately Fire Chief in 2011. "It has been a true blessing for me having had the privilege to work with and among so many amazing people in my past roles, and I am excited to expand that role in this administrative position in service to the fine citizens of Norfolk in the quality manner that they deserve."



Left to right: City Administration new hires Kylee Soderberg, Nick Stevenson, Kristy Booras, and Nancy Wright



# Economic Development

## REDEVELOPMENT NECESSARY FOR GROWTH

Norfolk is seeing substantial growth across the community thanks to the business leaders and dedicated employees that choose to do business here in Northeast Nebraska.

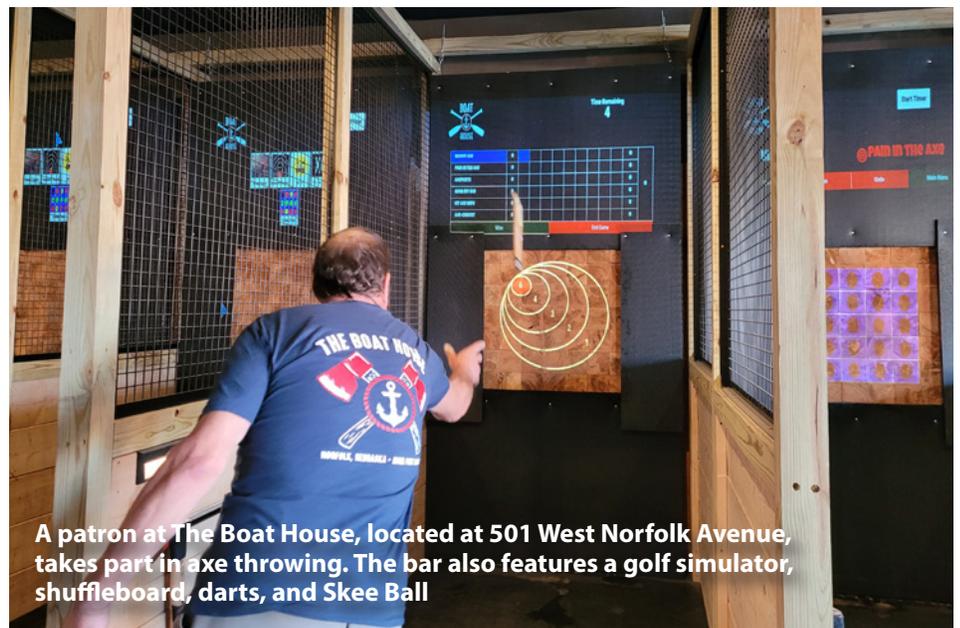
Over the next few years, the area will see a new wave of redevelopment happen along the North Fork of the Elkhorn River as the Riverfront Development Project takes shape. As is often seen in thriving communities, public investment will spur or enhance private development in targeted areas. The economic development office has been working alongside partners, such as the Greater Norfolk Economic Development Foundation (GNEDF), to facilitate new redevelopment opportunities.

These redevelopment projects will further complement the priorities that were identified in the Northeast Nebraska Growing Together Initiative. Since the late 90s, the demographic

trend for 18 to 35-year-olds has been outmigration from rural communities to larger cities. The loss of this particular demographic has long-lasting effects on the economic stability of the entire region.

Efforts to reverse this trend include but are not limited to: public amenity enhancements such as the North Fork Development Project and Riverpoint Square; the co-location of new business opportunities

through co-working and business incubation; the development and improvement of new and existing entrepreneurship programs; the facilitation of new, density-friendly housing opportunities; and the introduction of the Riverpoint Arts District. These combined strategies are part of an effort to attract and retain 18 to 35-year-olds by creating an attractive, vibrant atmosphere that encourages connectivity within the Riverfront District.



A patron at The Boat House, located at 501 West Norfolk Avenue, takes part in axe throwing. The bar also features a golf simulator, shuffleboard, darts, and Skee Ball

Heartland Beverage's expansion into the Bradford Business Park



### BRADFORD BUSINESS PARK COMPLETE

On September 30, 2020, the Greater Norfolk Economic Development Foundation (GNEDF) celebrated the groundbreaking of Bradford Business Park. The summer of 2021 saw final infrastructure installed as the business park's first company, Heartland Beverage, moved into its brand new facility. FieldWise, an agricultural-based technology company, expects to complete construction and begin operations in Norfolk in the spring of 2022. A third lot sale is pending for a local business expansion.

The 140-acre business park is located at the northeast corner of South 37th Street and West Omaha Avenue and was designed to accommodate 22 shovel-ready sites for new and expanding businesses.

Support from the Norfolk City Council and financial partnerships with Midwest Bank, Elkhorn Valley Bank, First National Bank and Frontier Bank made the project possible. The project also received tax increment financing to assist with public infrastructure development.

### BUSINESS VISITS CRUCIAL TO GROWTH

Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) visits serve as a fundamental strategy for economic sustainability and growth. BRE visits are designed to strengthen the connection between companies and the community by providing an opportunity for business leaders to meet one-on-one with the local economic development office to discuss opportunities and challenges.

Past BRE visits have led to the prioritization of activities such as housing development and early childhood education in an effort to support the workforce recruitment efforts of the business community.

These visits also provide an opportunity to connect business leaders with value-added services, programs, and/or products designed to expand and transition businesses.

BRE visits can be done in a variety of ways and are open to any business in Madison County. If you are a business in Madison County, please feel free to reach out to the economic development team if you would like to schedule a BRE visit.

### TOP 20 UNDER 40

Economic Developer Candice Alder was named a *Top 20 Under 40 Young Professional in Norfolk* by the Connect Young Professionals group. She was nominated for her key role in the development of Bradford Business Park.



Candice Alder

Candice has been a part of the economic development team since 2013 and has progressed from property coordinator to supervisor within the department.



ED staff and partners tour Louis Dreyfus



Conceptual rendering of the North Fork Development project

# Riverfront Progress

## NORTH FORK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Work will begin on the much anticipated North Fork Development Project this coming spring. The project includes river restoration, infrastructure enhancements, and the complete reconstruction of Johnson Park.

## RIVER RESTORATION

The North Fork River restoration includes the removal of a 6' drop structure and a 6' spillway at the bridge on First Street and the incorporation of eight, 18" drop points between the railroad bridge and the take-out point immediately south of the new Norfolk Avenue bridge. The

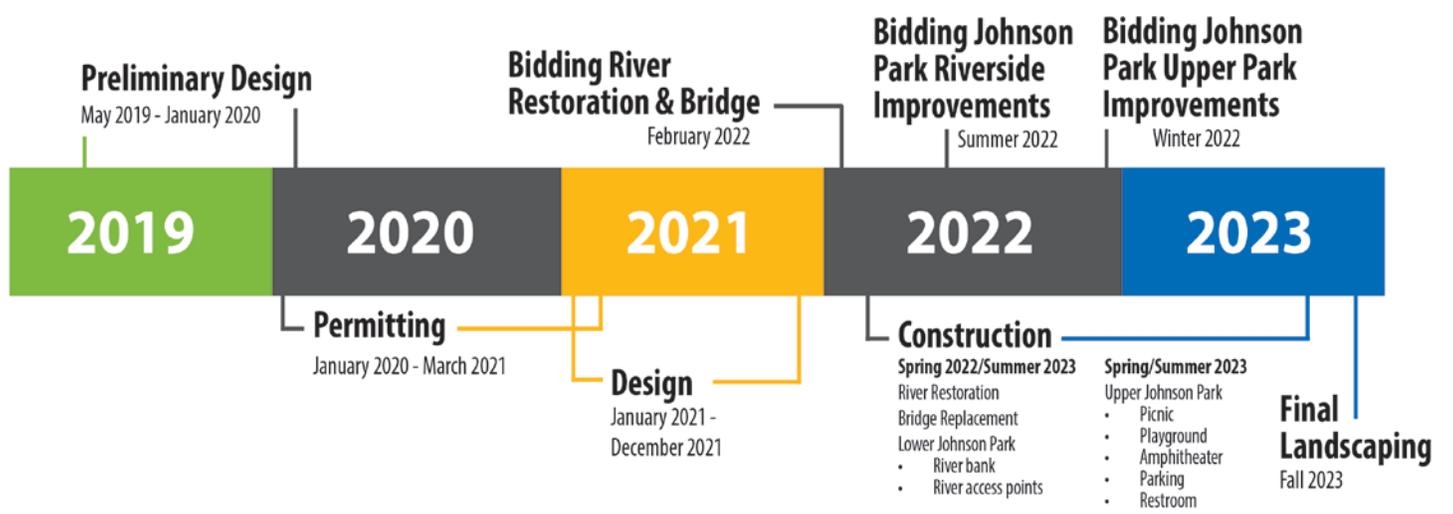
drop points will introduce white water characteristics to the river, provide beautification along the bank corridors, and enhance aquatic habitat including fish passages at each drop restoring the ability for fish to easily move upstream.

Additionally, an abandoned railroad bridge will be moved downstream and incorporated into the trail system providing a pedestrian walkway just upstream of the First Street Bridge.

This project will serve both in-stream users and on-bank users. The primary in-stream users will be whitewater enthusiasts such

as kayakers, canoeists, stand up paddle boarders, rafters, tubers, swimmers and boogie board/river surfers.

On-bank users include anglers, pedestrians, joggers, picnickers, bird watchers, and people wishing to visit the historic hydro plant site. The river reconstruction elements will include angling habitat enhancements and will accommodate anglers with improved river access. The river trail will connect to other trails/sidewalks throughout the park to allow users to access all of the features within the park as well as the linear trail system linking to numerous areas throughout Norfolk.



## INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS

In 2019, an evaluation of the existing bridge on First Street was done to ensure safety and connectivity, which is paramount to the overall plan. The existing bridge, nearing the end of its useful life, is defined as a “box culvert” that if left, would leave obstacles in the river impairing safety and navigability for future water users. A complete replacement of the existing bridge is needed to remove the concrete obstacles within the river, as well as create a trail underpass thereby removing the dangers pedestrians encounter with the current at-grade traffic crossing.

Additionally, the project includes the reconstruction of Braasch Avenue and 1st Street intersection and the introduction of a roundabout to ease traffic flow and enhance public safety.

Learn more about the North Fork Development Project at [northforkriverfront.com](http://northforkriverfront.com)

## JOHNSON PARK RECONSTRUCTION

The Johnson Park reconstruction plan focuses on the rehabilitation of a park that was once considered an integral part of Norfolk’s economic and cultural identity. The plan includes varying degrees of grading to provide safe, ADA access to the river, introduces additional parking, provides for enhanced festival space, and cultivates the expansion of youth amenities. The introduction of an amphitheater with a permanent stage and grass seating for hundreds will establish another unique, outdoor venue for concerts, plays, and ceremonies in Norfolk.



Rendering of the First Street Bridge



## FUNDING BREAKDOWN

### City of Norfolk

■ Keno	\$ 1,181,701
■ Highway Allocation Funds (1st Street Bridge Replacement)	\$ 3,324,000
■ Water Enterprise Fund	\$ 100,000

### Grants/Partnerships

■ Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District	\$ 1,031,701
■ Norfolk Sanitary Improvement District	\$ 250,000
■ DED CCCFF Planning Grant	\$ 15,000
■ DED CCCFF Grant	\$ 1,125,000
■ DED CDBG Tourism Grant	\$ 435,000
■ Anonymous Donor	\$ 500,000
■ Peter Kiewit Foundation	\$ 500,000
■ Robert B. Daugherty Foundation	\$ 500,000

### Private Fundraising

■ Local Donors	\$ 1,299,704
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### Remaining

■ Funds to raise	\$ 700,296
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Conceptual rendering of the Johnson Park Redevelopment project



# Parks & Recreation

## RIVERPOINT SQUARE OPENS

The corner of 3rd Street and Norfolk Avenue used to be a parking lot, but it has been transformed into a pocket park called Riverpoint Square. The City of Norfolk was awarded grant funding from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resource District (LENRD) to help fund the project. The park design was created by Olsson Associates and Beckenhauer Construction served as lead contractor. The park is designed to be a gathering space and host special events like the farmers market, concerts, and festivals. The Norfolk City Council designated Riverpoint Square as an official city park. With the designation, the parks division can add it to its budget for updates, and the police division can enforce park rules and regulations. Mayor Josh Moenning said, "We're excited to open this space to the public. Riverpoint Square adds another dimension to a growing and

evolving downtown, providing a gathering spot that can be used for markets and festivals. We're excited that the Norfolk farmers market and downtown concert series have already committed to calling Riverpoint Square home."

## SKYVIEW LAKE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT UPDATED

Much-needed improvements were made to Skyview Park including the installation of new, state-of-the-art playground equipment. Norfolk worked with Creative Sites, LLC, on the

\$246,000 project. Two new play sets never seen before in Norfolk provide a musical component, play panels, and a rock wall. Also, new slides and a 100 foot zip line were constructed.

The Skyview improvements are part of a full City Park improvement initiative replacing outdated equipment. Skyview Park is the site of local high school cross country meets, the Christian Cross Festival held in June and the annual 4th of July fireworks show attended by thousands of people each year.



Community collaboration is certainly embraced in Norfolk. Every year the City of Norfolk partners with many businesses and organizations to promote healthy living, remembrance, and recreation. Whether it's temporarily blocking streets, assisting with traffic, or helping to secure the necessary permits, City staff are working behind the scenes in some way to foster collaboration with our community partners.

### NORFOLK AREA FARMERS MARKET

The Norfolk Farmers Market relocated to downtown at the new Riverpoint Square. The Farmers Market is open every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday during the summer and fall months. Riverpoint Square was designed to be a space in downtown for people to gather and connect.

### TREE GRANT RECEIVED

Thanks to the Free Trees for Fall Planting program, an effort of the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, the City of Norfolk Parks and Recreation Division received 10 trees for the 2021 Tree Replacement Project. Trees planted included various oaks, lindens, honey locusts, bald cypress, and an ironwood tree.

### TOP RANKING FOR VETERANS MEMORIAL

Stadium Talk ranked Norfolk's Veterans Memorial Football Field as the best high school football stadium in Nebraska. The stadium is home to the Norfolk Public, Norfolk Catholic, and Lutheran High Northeast football and soccer teams. The local YMCA and Northeast Community College soccer teams utilize the field as well. Stadium capacity is just over 3,600.



Norfolk Farmers Market representatives at their new Riverpoint Square location

### DOWNTOWN CONCERT SERIES

Riverpoint Square was the home to a new multi-week event over the summer - The Downtown Norfolk Association Concert Series. Shows took place in June, July, and September. Visitors also had the opportunity to order to-go from the downtown restaurants and have food delivered to the beer garden.

### MIMOSA FEST

An event to celebrate togetherness after the 2020 lockdowns was held in Downtown Norfolk. District Table and Tap hosted 'Mimosa Fest.' The City of Norfolk, the Downtown Norfolk Association, and the Norfolk Area Visitor's Bureau assisted in preparation. A portion of proceeds was donated to St. Jude.



Veterans Memorial Football Field was a part of the \$16.4 million voter-approved bond that was retired early



Mimosa Fest debuted in Downtown Norfolk in 2021

### DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED

The City of Norfolk named Nathan Powell the next Parks and Recreation Director in 2021.



Nathan Powell

Powell came to Norfolk from Mitchell, South Dakota, where he served as the Parks and Recreation Director for the past five years. He has made a career in parks and recreation and is a certified parks and recreation executive. During his career, Powell has been involved with several projects, including a new indoor aquatic center, master planning, programming and operations, various park improvements, and the Lake Mitchell restoration project.

### LONGTIME PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR RETIRES

Pat Mrsny retired after 29 years as Norfolk's



Pat Mrsny

Park and Recreation Director. During his tenure Mrsny planned, implemented, and participated in numerous projects and programs that provided recreation and leisure opportunities for the citizens of Norfolk, surrounding communities, and guests. Some of those projects include improvements to Ta-Ha-Zouka Park, the development of miles of trails for pedestrians and bicyclists, playground equipment upgrades throughout Norfolk, and tireless years of working with softball and baseball programs.

Renovations commenced on the Grand Theater Redevelopment project in 2021. The project includes the rehabilitation of the space to include ground level commercial space and nine apartment units on the second floor



# Planning & Development

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

When a new business or housing development is in the works in Norfolk, a number of steps take place leading up to the final product. A preplanning meeting is held with Planning & Development, Building Services, Public Works, Economic Development and the Fire Marshal when applicable.

If the property in question needs rezoning, approval is required from both the Norfolk Planning Commission and City Council as well as final plat approval. The building permit process ensures construction work is done safely and properly.

Once the new development is complete, a final inspection is had,

and a certificate of occupancy is issued for the business or home. In 2021, there were permits issued for 72 residential units, 14 commercial developments, and one industrial development.

## CODE CHANGE REFLECTS GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

In May, changes to the city code were approved to allow for microbreweries and microdistilleries. Originally the code just had definitions for large breweries and distilleries. According to the state, a microbrewery can have a maximum output of 20,000 barrels of beer per year, which is just shy of five million pints of beer. Microdistilleries can produce a maximum of 10,000 gallons per year. Also under the proposed change, microdistilleries and microbreweries that grind their own mash would be required to obtain a conditional use permit since the grain dust from that process is very flammable.



The Legacy Bend Housing Development, located west of Victory Road on Sunrise Drive, is continuing to make progress. The development is a seven-phase project consisting of 175 single-family homes, 51 townhomes, and 224 apartments

### **NEW CODE FOR SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL RENTALS**

Short-term rentals such as Airbnb or Vrbo were granted approval this year with city code updates. Short-term rentals, both inside City limits and the extraterritorial jurisdiction, need to be licensed every year and inspected. The City defines short-term as 30 days or fewer.

### **NEW CODE FOR SMOKE ALARMS**

Smoke alarms in Norfolk now must be interconnected following changes to the city code for the safety of citizens. On change of

ownership or tenant, smoke alarm interconnection must be verified in dwellings. Interconnected alarms are already required in new buildings and after significant remodeling, and the owner of any residential property is required to provide alarms in the building. There must be at least one smoke alarm on each level, one alarm in the vicinity of any bedroom, and one in each bedroom.

Zoning regulations for the City of Norfolk, Nebraska can be found at [norfolkne.gov/government/citycode/](http://norfolkne.gov/government/citycode/).

### **2021 NORFOLK PLANNING COMMISSION**

**CHAIRMAN**  
Dan Spray

**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
Dirk Waite

**MEMBERS**  
Kyle Deets  
Mel Figueroa  
Brandon Franklin  
Matt Gilmore  
Martin Griffith  
Mary Hammond  
Jacob Thone



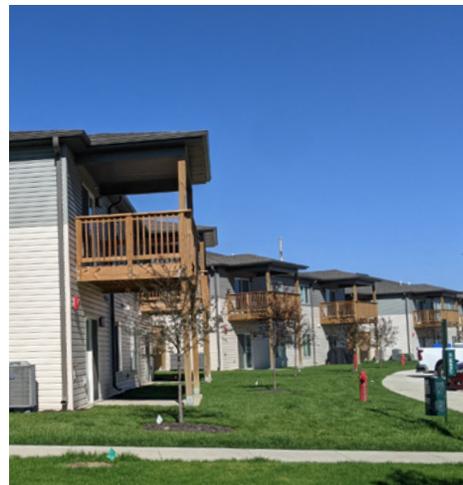
Norfolk Fire Marshal Terry Zweibel discusses smoke alarm importance



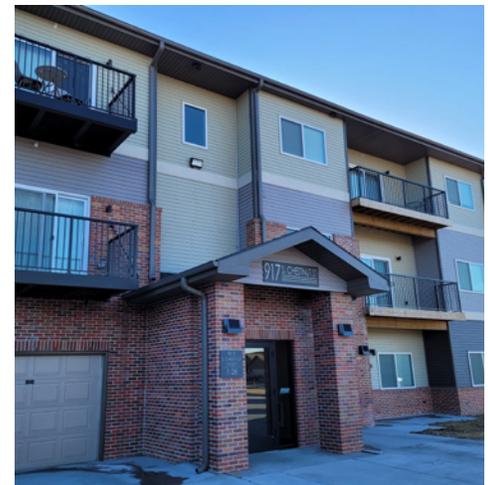
Construction is underway on the Fairfield Inn and TownePlace Suites located on the corner of Highway 81 and Omaha Avenue. Consisting of 90 rooms, this is the first dual-brand Marriott hotel project in the state of Nebraska



The Midtown Event Center, located on 1102 Riverside Boulevard, is a modern reception hall that hosts weddings, banquets, fundraisers, and meetings



Victory Village, located between Channel Road and Victory Road, completed construction. The development consists of 160 apartments, a clubhouse, pool, and eight garage structures



Work continues on the Nor-Park Housing Development located north of NPPD. The project consists of four apartment buildings with 28 units each, five triplex lots, and 40 single-family homes

# Housing *opportunity. right at home.*



Keith Carl with Hanna: Keelan Associates presents the 2021 Norfolk Housing Study to the Norfolk City Council

## NORFOLK HOUSING STUDY

The Norfolk Housing Agency and NeighborWorks Northeast Nebraska were instrumental in having an updated City of Norfolk Housing Study completed by Hanna:Keelan Associates P.C. in September 2021. Based on the projected Census for Norfolk, the Estimated Housing Unit "Target" Demand by year 2026 would be a total of 769 new housing units. Developers and contractors have been very proactive in building new units in Norfolk as evidenced in the recent increase in single family homes and apartment buildings in Norfolk.

## NORFOLK HOUSING AGENCY PROGRAMS

The Norfolk Housing Agency and the City of Norfolk utilized funds from various grants to provide financial assistance for low-to-moderate income families for home repairs for owner-occupied units in the City of Norfolk. Also, rental assistance can be provided for those in need that meet the qualifications in Norfolk (including Woodland Park), Hadar, and Battle Creek. All units in these programs are decent, safe, and sanitary.

The Housing Agency facilitates and coordinates the development of

housing and economic development initiatives. The goals are to give assistance to those persons of greater need, improve the availability of housing, promote home ownership, and increase attractiveness of designated underdeveloped neighborhoods and increase local employment.

## PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

The Norfolk Housing Agency participated as a vendor at Project Homeless Connect in Norfolk on October 8, 2021.

More than 550 household members received services that day--ranging from a hot meal, haircuts, housing advocacy, flu shots, food pantry, medical assessments or interventions, mental health evaluations, and so much more. Project Homeless Connect is a one-day, one-stop event where individuals

and families who are in need are able to receive a wide variety of immediate, on-site services and support for unmet needs, for free.

## FAIR HOUSING CONFERENCE



The Norfolk Housing Agency hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Nebraska Fair Housing Conference at the Norfolk City Library on October 19, 2021. Speakers were from the Fair Housing Center of Nebraska-Iowa. Fifty-seven individuals registered including various landlords, property management companies, nonprofit groups, area communities and State of Nebraska representatives. Topics discussed were various types of discrimination, emotional support animals versus pets, reasonable accommodations, and testing calls.



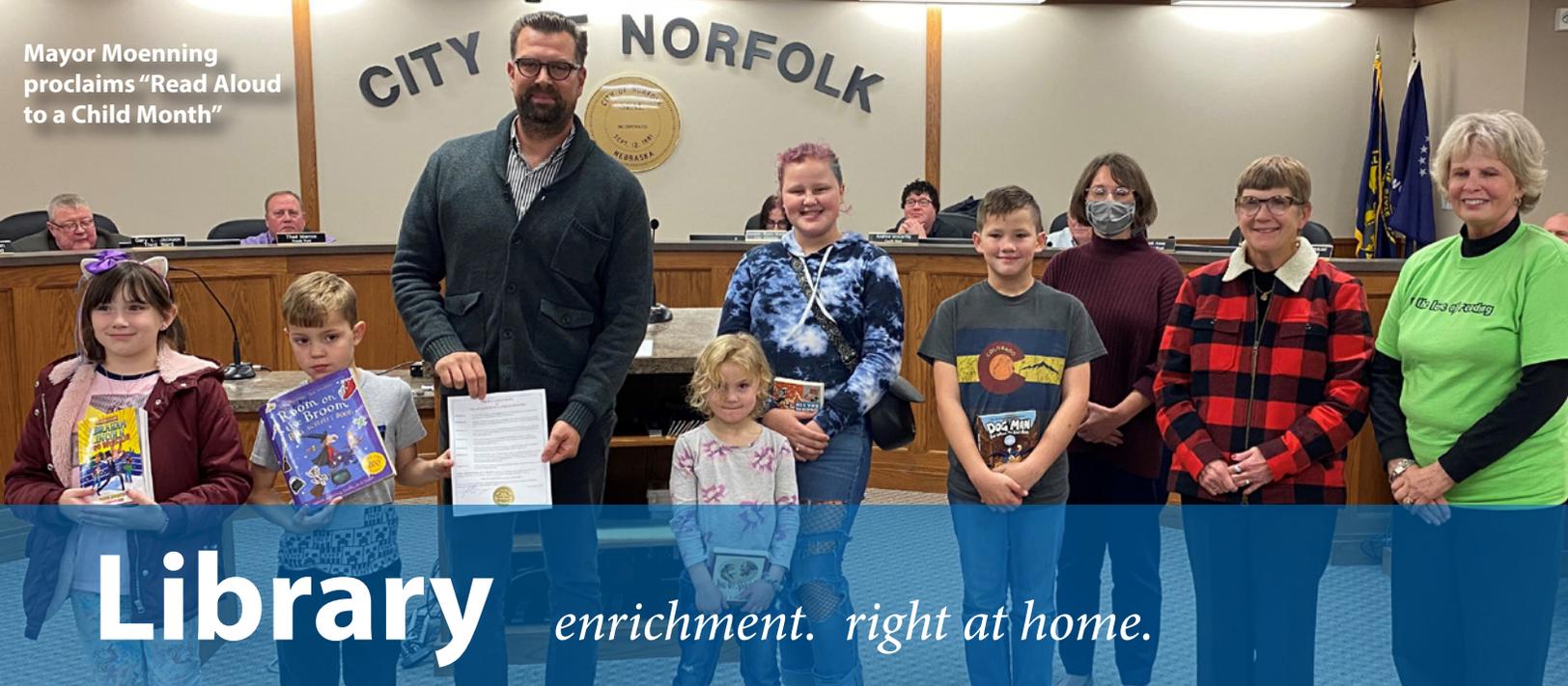
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation (Before)



Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation (After)

Mayor Moenning  
proclaims "Read Aloud  
to a Child Month"

CITY OF NORFOLK



# Library

*enrichment. right at home.*

## PERSONALIZED BOOK RECOMMENDATION SERVICES

The Norfolk Public Library added to its repertoire of services offered this year. You can now have staff put together reading recommendations tailored to you. Once you fill out a "Custom Reads" request you will then receive a list of five titles based on information submitted. You may request the book bundle of recommended titles and have the books checked out for you.

## LIBRARY RECEIVES GRANT

The American Library Association awarded \$3,000 to the library to assist in hosting two community conversations on how the library can best serve individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Library Director Jessica Chamberlain said librarians were able to make some real, concrete improvements as a result of the project. "We learned that we needed to communicate better about what we already offered for individuals with disabilities. We added a new page to our website regarding the accessibility of the library.

We also now have noise canceling headphones and sunglasses to help make library visits more comfortable for anyone with sensory sensitivities. We learned that we needed to provide more opportunities for engagement during library visits, so we created activity kits for people to use. These have a variety of items, from sensory toys and fine motor skills games to robotics and technology projects."

## IMAGINATION LIBRARY

The Norfolk Public Library is assisting with bringing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to children under age five. This program provides free books each month, mailed directly to the child's home, at no cost to the family. The books are carefully selected and vary by age so that the child will receive a high-quality, age-appropriate book delivered every month. The program is being led by Read Aloud Norfolk, a local nonprofit that encourages reading aloud with children, with financial sponsorship coming from The Connie Fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation.

## "PAY IT FORWARD"

The Norfolk Public Library saw a record level of book donations this year and used some of them to start its new "Pay it Forward" program. You can now find a selection of paperbacks available in the library's café area. These books are available for anyone needing reading material, regardless of whether or not they have a library card. If you borrow one, you can return it, or you can "Pay It Forward" to another reader!

## ANNEKA RAMIREZ HONORED

The Nebraska Library Association recognized librarian Anneka Ramirez this past year. She



Anneka Ramirez

was awarded the association's Presidential Award of Excellence, which is given to two individuals each year who have gone above and beyond in their service to the library profession. She has been with the library since November 2017.

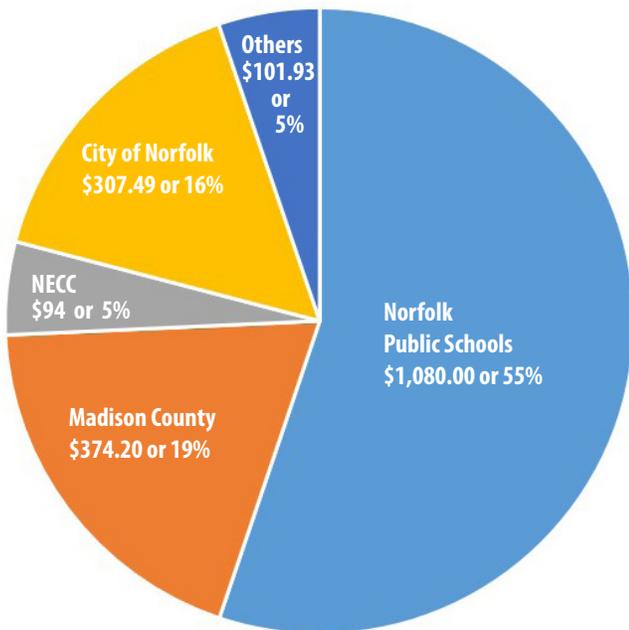
# Property Tax Breakdown

## Where Your Property Tax Dollars Are Spent

### City of Norfolk Your Tax Dollars at Work

On a \$100,000 home, your property taxes for 2021 are \$1,957.62.

Norfolk Public Schools.....	\$1,080.00
Madison County.....	\$ 374.20
Northeast Community College.....	\$ 94.00
City of Norfolk.....	\$ 307.49
Other.....	\$ 101.93



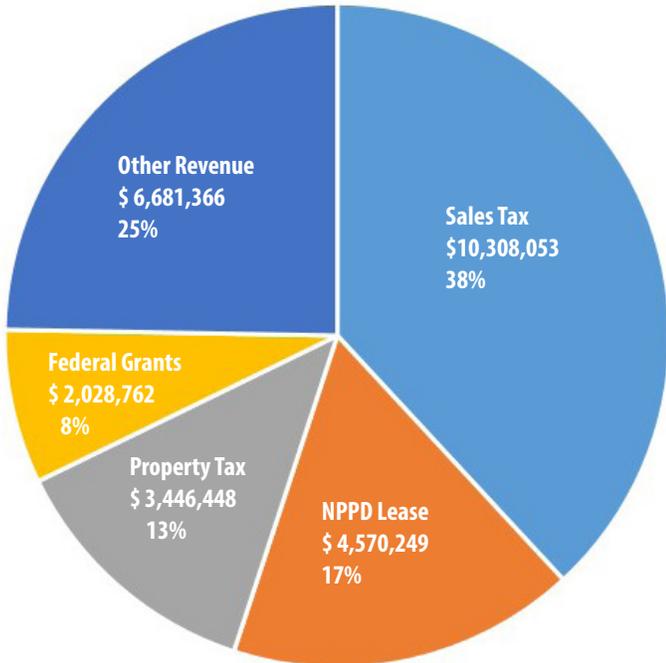
### Property Tax Dollars

On a \$100,000 home, your property taxes for 2021 are \$1,957.62.

<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Norfolk Public Schools	\$1,080.00	55%
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Madison County	\$ 374.20	19%
<span style="color: gray;">■</span> Northeast Community College	\$ 94.00	5%
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> City of Norfolk	\$ 307.49	16%
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Others	\$ 101.93	5%
	<u>\$ 1,957.62</u>	<u>100%</u>

# Revenues & Expenditures

**General Fund Revenues**  
FY 2020 - 2021



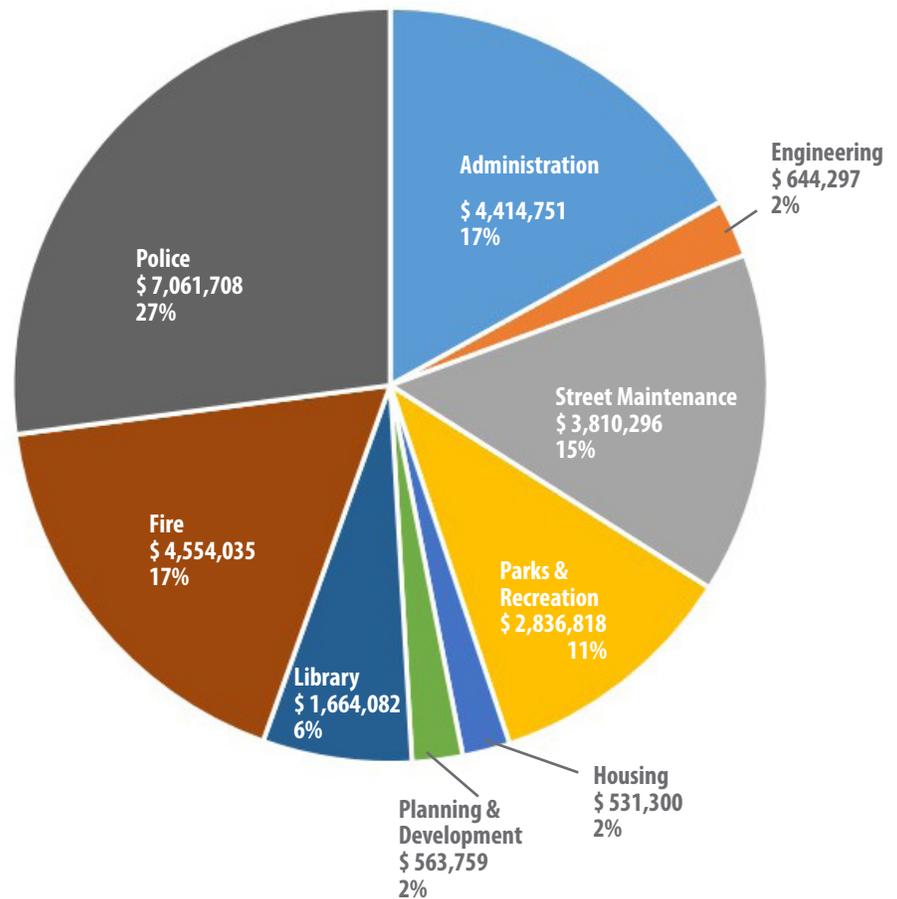
**General Fund Revenues**  
FY 2020 - 2021

Sales Tax	\$ 10,308,053	38%
Nebraska Public Power District Lease	\$ 4,570,249	17%
Property Tax	\$ 3,446,448	13%
Federal Grants	\$ 2,028,762	8%
Other Revenue	\$ 6,681,366	25%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 27,034,879</b>	<b>100%</b>

**General Fund Expenditures**  
Distribution by Division or Function

**General Fund Expenditures**  
Distribution by Division or Function  
FY 2020-2021

Administration	\$ 4,414,751	17%
Engineering	\$ 644,297	2%
Street Maintenance	\$ 3,810,296	15%
Parks & Recreation	\$ 2,836,818	11%
Housing	\$ 531,300	2%
Planning & Development	\$ 563,759	2%
Library	\$ 1,664,082	6%
Fire	\$ 4,554,035	17%
Police	\$ 7,061,708	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,081,045</b>	<b>100%</b>





309 N. 5th Street  
Norfolk, NE 68701

**CITY SERVICES**

Fire & Police - emergency	911
Fire Division - non-emergency	402-844-2050
Police Division - non-emergency	402-644-8700
Administration	402-844-2000
Building Services	402-844-2060
Housing Division	402-844-2080
Library	402-844-2100
Parks & Recreation	402-844-2180
Planning and Development	402-844-2280
Economic Development	402-844-2260
Solid Waste - Transfer Station	402-844-2231
Street Division	402-844-2180
Water and Sewer Maintenance & Emergency Service 24x7	402-844-2210
Snow information	402-844-2299
Tree Bud Program	402-844-2000

For emergency alerts text: "NorfolkAlerts" to 74121.  
 For City news text: "JOINNORFOLKNE" to 22828.  
 Learn more and subscribe to City e-News at [www.norfolkne.gov](http://www.norfolkne.gov).  
 Interact with us on Twitter @[NorfolkNE](https://twitter.com/NorfolkNE) or on Facebook  
 at *City of Norfolk Nebraska Government*.

**MOVING IN? WELCOME TO NORFOLK!**

NPPD - Electricity	877-275-6773
Black Hills Energy - Gas	888-890-5554
City - Water	402-844-2000
Auto Licensing	402-454-3311
Animal Shelter	402-750-4665
Norfolk Public Schools	402-644-2500
Norfolk Public Transportation	402-379-4595
Area Agency On Aging	402-370-3454
Meals on Wheels	402-371-8626

**FAMILY FUN**

Norfolk Public Library	402-844-2100
AquaVenture Waterpark	402-844-2270
Elkhorn Valley Museum	402-371-3886
Norfolk Arts Center	402-371-7199
Madison County Museum	402-992-1221

Visit [NorfolkNE.gov](http://NorfolkNE.gov), [VisitNorfolkNE.com](http://VisitNorfolkNE.com), or  
[www.NorfolkNow.org](http://www.NorfolkNow.org) to learn more about the  
 Norfolk area.